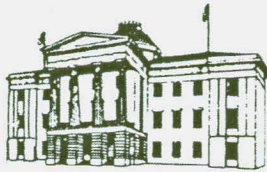


State of North Carolina



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

FORGOTTEN PATRIOTS WEEK

2012

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, from 1775 to 1783, an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 enslaved and free persons of color, seeking freedom and aspiring to citizenship, served as soldiers, sailors, marines and spies during the Revolutionary War, and others performed selfless patriotic acts; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of the times, tens of thousands of men, women and children fled enslavement, sued masters and petitioned courts and legislatures for freedom; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 1777, the North Carolina General Assembly made military service mandatory for men ages 16 to 50, regardless of race; and

WHEREAS, at least 250 documented enslaved and free persons of color from 41 counties and 12 Congressional Districts in North Carolina served during the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, in May 2012, the names of 210 patriots were sent to 69 relevant municipalities that included county boards and city councils, inviting them to consider resolutions honoring the deeds and aspirations of local patriots; and

WHEREAS, forgotten enslaved and free persons of color during the Revolutionary War era established churches and institutions, and created a foundation for future generations to build upon; their actions raised expectations across a newly formed nation with the challenge to live up to the words of our founding fathers – *all men are created equal*; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina joins Liberty Fund DC, the sponsors of the National Liberty Memorial Act, in honoring these great Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 24-30, 2012, as “**FORGOTTEN PATRIOTS WEEK**” in North Carolina, and urge citizens to study, preserve and promote the history as a tourism resource and unifying national legacy.



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this nineteenth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.